

National Adolescent Health Information Center



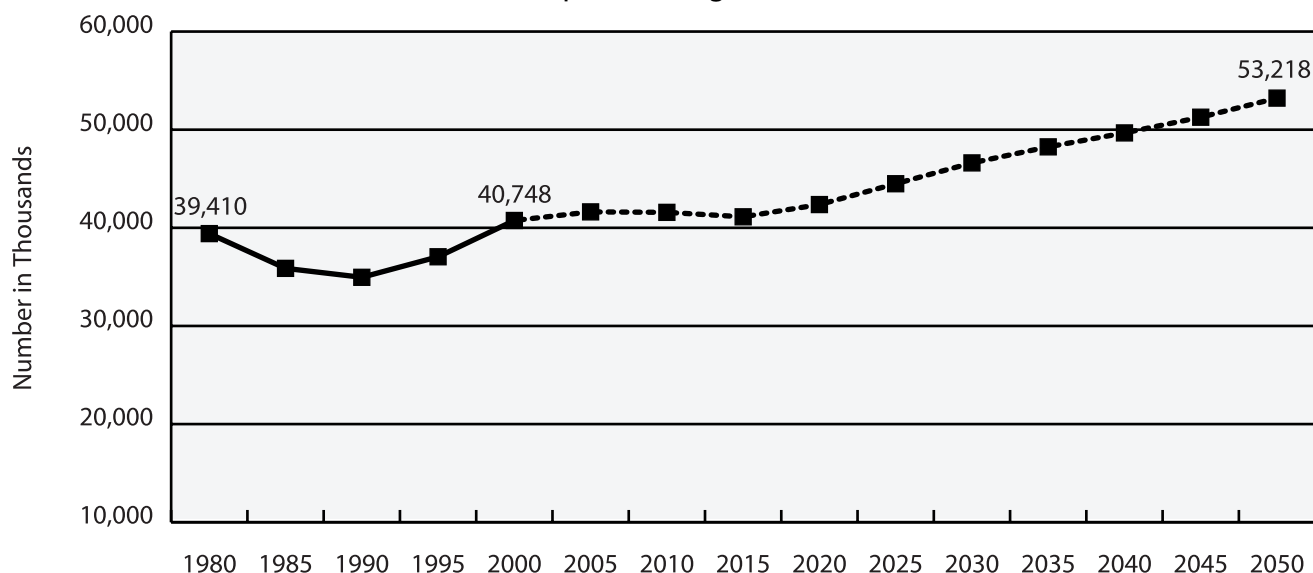
Fact Sheet on Demographics: Adolescents

Highlights:

- ▶ The U.S. adolescent population is growing.
- ▶ The adolescent population is more racially/ethnically diverse than the general population.
- ▶ More adolescents live in suburbs than in rural areas and central cities.
- ▶ Two thirds of adolescents ages 12-17 live with both parents.
- ▶ Black and Hispanic youth experience poverty at a higher rate than their peers.

▶ The U.S. adolescent population is growing.

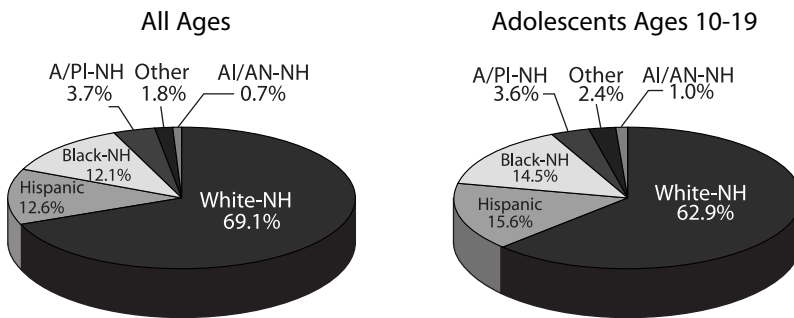
U.S. Population, Ages 10-19, 1980-2050



The number of adolescents in the U.S. began to increase in the 1990s and is expected to keep increasing through 2050. From 1990 to 2000, the adolescent population ages 10-19 increased by 16.6%, from 34.9 million to 40.7 million. Although the projected figures indicate substantial growth for the adolescent population, they represent a much smaller percentage increase than that projected for the overall population (2.2% between 2000 and 2010, versus an expected 6.6% increase for the total U.S. population) (U.S. Census Bureau, 1992; U.S. Census Bureau, 2000; U.S. Census Bureau, 2003a; U.S. Census Bureau, 2003b; U.S. Census Bureau, 2003c).

► **The adolescent population is more racially/ethnically diverse than the general population.**

U.S. Population by Age and Race/Ethnicity, 2000*

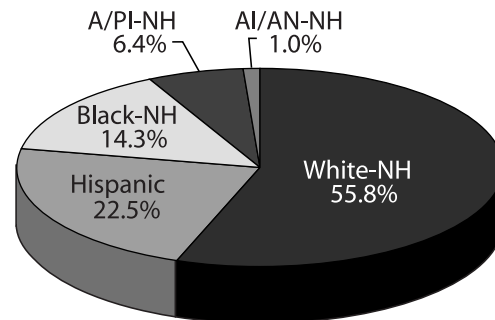


The adolescent population (ages 10-19) is more racially/ethnically diverse than the overall population. While White, non Hispanics comprise a majority of both populations, the adolescent population has a greater percentage of Black-NHs*, Hispanics, and American Indian/Alaskan Native-NHs than the population as a whole (U.S. Census Bureau, 2003b). Major factors underlying this diversity include the higher immigration of Hispanics and Asian/Pacific Islanders, the decreased birth and fertility rates among Whites and Blacks, and an increase in birth and fertility rates among Hispanics (MacKay, Fingerhut & Duran, 2000).

► **Racial/ethnic diversity is increasing in the adolescent population.**

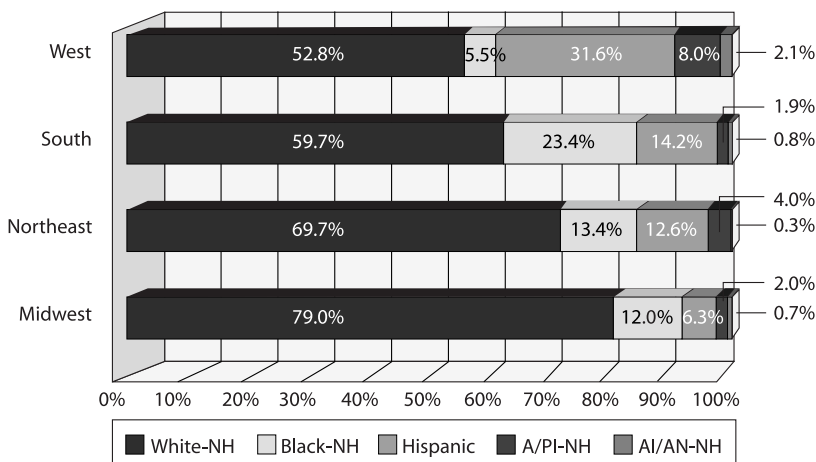
The percentage of White-NHs in the adolescent population is projected to drop from 62.9% in 2000 to 55.8% in 2020. The Hispanic adolescent population, the second most populous racial/ethnic group, will increase by 50%. Although small in numbers, the A/PI*-NH population will experience the most rapid growth (83%). Relatively small growth is projected for the Black-NH and AI/AN*-NH populations (2.5% and 6%, respectively) (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000; U.S. Census Bureau, 2003b).

Adolescents by Race/Ethnicity, Ages 10-19, 2020 (Projection)



► **The racial/ethnic distribution of adolescents varies by region.**

Adolescents by Region and Race/Ethnicity, Ages 10-19, 2000



The racial/ethnic diversity of the adolescent population ages 10-19 varies by region¹. The Northeast and Midwest have the highest percentages of White-NH adolescents, while the South has the highest percentage of Black-NH adolescents. The West has the highest percentage of Hispanic, AI/AN-NH & A/PI-NH adolescents. The highest number of all adolescents live in the South, followed by the Midwest, West and Northeast (35.7%, 23.5%, 22.7% and 18.1% of all adolescents, respectively) (U.S. Census Bureau, 2003b).

*These abbreviations apply to all graphs and text throughout the fact sheet:

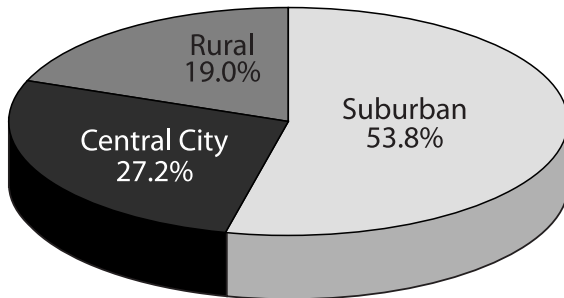
NH(s)=non Hispanic(s)

AI/AN=American Indian/Alaskan Native

A/PI=Asian/Pacific Islander

► **More adolescents live in suburbs than in rural areas and central cities.**

Location of Adolescents by Type of Setting,
Ages 12-17, 2002

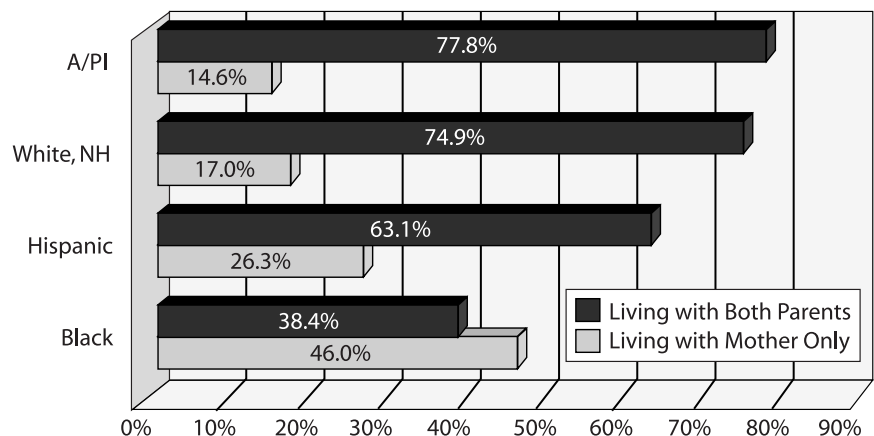


Over half of all adolescents ages 12-17 live in suburban settings.² From 1990 to 2002, the percentage of adolescents ages 12-17 living in the suburbs increased from 46.6% to 53.8% (U.S. Census Bureau, 1992; U.S. Census Bureau, 2003a; Fields, 2003). In 2002, more than a quarter of adolescents lived in central city settings, while 1 in 5 lived in rural areas. White-NH and A/PI youth ages 12-17 are most likely to live in suburban settings (59.7% and 56.3%, respectively). Among same-age Black-NHs, 50.4% live in central city settings and 36.6% live in suburban settings. Hispanic youths are about equally likely to live in central city or suburban settings (44.5% and 46.3%, respectively) (Fields, 2003).

► **Two thirds of adolescents ages 12-17 live with both parents.**

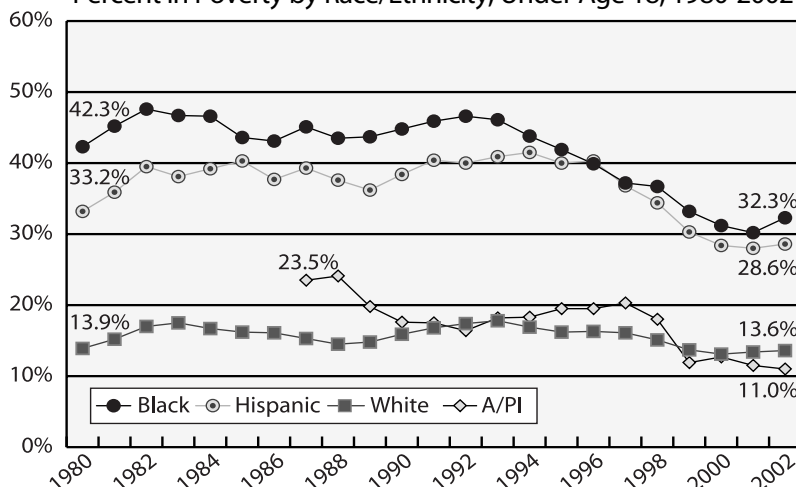
In 2002, two thirds of adolescents ages 12-17 lived with both parents, a decrease from 73% in 1995 (Fields, 2003; Bryson, 1996). This parallels a trend for children ages 0-18: from 1980 to 2002, the number of children living with two parents decreased from 77% to 69% (FIFCFS, 2003). In 2002, about three quarters of A/PI and White-NH youths ages 12-17 lived with both parents, as did 63.1% of same-age Hispanics. By contrast, about two fifths of Black adolescents lived in two-parent families; of all racial/ethnic groups, they were most likely to live with mothers only (46%) or neither parent (10.3%) (Fields, 2003).

Family Structure by Race/Ethnicity, Ages 12-17, 2002



► **Black and Hispanic youth experience poverty at a higher rate than their peers.**

Percent in Poverty by Race/Ethnicity, Under Age 18, 1980-2002



Black children and adolescents under age 18 experience poverty more than their same-age peers in other racial/ethnic groups. Hispanic youths had the second highest poverty rate, followed by White and A/PI youth⁵. In 2002, 1 out of 6 youths under age 18 lived below the Federal Poverty Line,³ close to the lowest rate since data collection began in 1979 (Proctor & Dalaker, 2003).

⁵Note: Data collection for the A/PI population started in 1987.

*These abbreviations apply to all graphs and text throughout the fact sheet:

NH(s)=non Hispanic(s)

AI/AN=American Indian/Alaskan Native

A/PI=Asian/Pacific Islander

Data Sources:

Proctor, B. D., & Dalaker, J. (2003). *Poverty in the United States: 2002* (Current Population Reports, Series P60-222). Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. [Available at (12/03): <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty.html>]

Bryson, K. (1996). *Household and family characteristics: March 1995* (Current Population Reports, Series P20-488). Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. [Available at (12/03): <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hh-fam.html>]

Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics [FIFCFS]. (2003). *America's children: Key national indicators of well-being, 2003*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. [Available at (12/03): <http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/>]

Fields, J. (2003). *Children's living arrangements and characteristics: March 2002* (Current Population Reports, P20-547) [Detailed Tables]. Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau. [Available at (12/03): <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hh-fam.html>]

MacKay, A. P., Fingerhut, L. A., & Duran C. R. (2000). *Adolescent health chartbook. Health, United States, 2000*. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. [Available at (12/03): <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/pubs/pubd/hsu/2010/2010.htm>]

U.S. Census Bureau. (1992). *1990 census of population: General population characteristics, United States* (CP-1-1). Washington, DC: Author. [Available at (12/03): <http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/decenial.html>]

U.S. Census Bureau. (2000). *Projections of the resident population by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin: 1999 to 2100* (NP-D1-A Middle Series). Washington, DC: Author. [Available at (12/03): <http://www.census.gov/population/www/projections/natdet-D1A.html>]

U.S. Census Bureau. (2003a). *American FactFinder, Census 1990 summary tape file 1* [Tabulated Data]. Washington, DC: Author. [Available at (12/03): <http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet>]

U.S. Census Bureau. (2003b). *American FactFinder, Census 2000 summary file 1* [Tabulated Data]. Washington, DC: Author. [Available at (12/03): <http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet>]

U.S. Census Bureau. (2003c). *National estimates, 1980 to 1990* [Tabulated Data]. Washington, DC: Author. [Available at (12/03): http://eire.census.gov/popest/archives/national/nat_80s_detail.php]

1. The Census Bureau defines four geographic regions as 1) Northeast-MN, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT, NY, PA; 2) Midwest-OH, IN, IL, MI, WI, MN, IA, MO, ND, SD, NE, KS; 3) West-MT, ID, WY, CO, NM, AZ, UT, NV, WA, OR, CA, AK, HI; and 4) South-DE, MD, DC, VA, WV, NC, SC, GA, FL, AR, LA, OK, TX, KY, TN, AL, MO.

2. For more information on settings, refer to Fields, 2003.

3. The Federal Poverty Line was \$18,392 for a family of four in 2002.

In all cases, the most recent available data were used. Some data are released 1-3 years after collection. For questions regarding data sources or availability, please contact NAHIC. For racial/ethnic data, the category names presented are those of the data sources used. Every attempt was made to standardize age ranges. When this was not possible, age ranges were those of the data sources used.

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Background on NAHIC

The National Adolescent Health Information Center (NAHIC) was established with funding from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau in 1993 (4H06 MC00002) to serve as a national resource for adolescent health research and information to assure the integration, synthesis, coordination and dissemination of adolescent health-related information.

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Copies of any of the listed Briefs & Fact Sheets can be downloaded on the World Wide Web at <http://youth.ucsf.edu/nahic>.

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NAHIC Briefs and Fact Sheets

Brief on Clinical Preventive Health Services for Adolescents

Brief on Mental Health: Adolescents & Young Adults

Brief on Obesity: Adolescents & Young Adults

Fact Sheet on Adolescent Health Care Utilization

Fact Sheet on Demographics: Adolescents

Fact Sheet on Mortality: Adolescents & Young Adults

Fact Sheet on Reproductive Health: Adolescents & Young Adults

Fact Sheet on Substance Use: Adolescents & Young Adults

Fact Sheet on Suicide: Adolescents & Young Adults

Fact Sheet on Unintentional Injury: Adolescents & Young Adults

Fact Sheet on Violence: Adolescents & Young Adults